

Town of Somers  
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council  
Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
8:00 A.M.  
Meeting Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting called to order by Deputy Emergency Management Director Todd Rolland at 8:03

**II. Members present:** Glen Reynolds, Todd Rolland, Dan Thayer, Karen Hocking, Chief John Roche, Peter DeBrino, Trooper Justin Preuss, and Allison Maynard

Also, in attendance were: Kim Littig, Dan Parisi, Andrea Vitrano, Stephanie Levin, Jim MacFeat, and First Selectman Tim Keeney

**Members Absent:** Superintendent Paul Gagliarducci, and Anne Cournoyer

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

Sanitarian/Health/COVID: Andrea Vitrano – Report is attached. Covid vaccine rate increased by 5.48% since December 2021.

Human Services: Allison Maynard announced her resignation. Human Services staff are currently in Washington D.C. for training along with staff members from the Board of Education. The Town is advertising for a new Human Services Director. Allison as offered to be available for Somers during the transition. While it has been a mild winter, energy assistance requests are up due to the increase in electrical costs starting January 1.

Police: Trooper Preuss - There has been a higher than typical rate of stolen check out of mailboxes both curbside private mailboxes and exterior post office mailboxes. It seems to be an organized group that is conducting these thefts. There were a couple of incidents at the library in the boy's restroom where an individual was urinating on the walls and floor and vandalized the walls with graffiti. One juvenile has been charged for the incidents. Somers has received a rural roads speed enforcement grant to conduct speed enforcement. Pistol Permit applications were up in January. The Resident Troopers' office received and destroyed 182 pounds of unused or expired medications in 2022.

Fire: Chief Roache – We had over 2,600 calls for 2022. We continue to do a lot of outreach programs for the community such as building inspections, CPR/Fire Aid classes, set installs etc. We had one of our medics resign to take a job at Bradley Airport. We received the Hartford Foundation Grant in which we used it to purchase two fully enclosed and weatherproof AED cabinets. These have been put up at the Field Rd Park gazebo and Little League snack shack behind town hall. If needed, you call 911, dispatcher will give you a code and then open the box. We are looking into a Suboxone Program, we would be the only service in New England

and one of the few in the country. This will allow our medics to administer to overdose patients to less the withdrawal symptoms. We would be partnering with Social Services and a group like CHR. Sonny's place will be restarting construction in early March in hopes of being completed by the end of the month or early April.

DPW: Todd Rolland - DPW is in winter operations, and the winter has been mild thus far. The Senior Community Center information sessions were well received. In January, we had three tree-down events due to winds. We have had winter storm events on: 01.06 – Freezing Rain, 01.12 – Freezing Rain, 01.16 – Freezing Drizzle, 01.23 – Rain to Snow, and 01.25 – Snow to Rain.

Schools: Stephanie Levin – Boiler repair is 99% complete and almost a year to so do. Still waiting on the transfer switch for the HS generator. Had a reunification plan meeting with PD, FD, EM and school staff. We have scheduled a half day table top exercise for June 21<sup>st</sup>. 911 phone system is still down. Another attempt was made on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> to fix but it did not work. Vendor will continue to find a solution and try again on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. HVAC bids are back and will be looked at by the committee. Plan is to prioritize the need and then present to the BOE and then the BOS. We are looking into a security grant (50/50 match) to see if we can qualify for it. Building use forms are being updated. Any non-Somers organizations will be required to have PD on site for all events no matter the size of the crowd. On 3/24, there will be a 1 Mile Fun Run put on for one of the senior's capstone project.

#### **IV New Business**

CERT: Karen Hocking – Quiet month for CERT – Held our meeting/training session in which we went over our SOP's. March 11 & 18 we will be putting on a Basic CERT class for prospective members, this class will be held in Stafford.

Tim Keeney – In the middle of Budget season. Rec and Finance to present tonight at the BOS meeting. Big challenge that we face are competitive salaries. EMS cost recovery with Stafford is still on going and very challenging. Referendum in May for budget and community center.

Todd Rolland – Getting some numbers for the community center

Allison Maynard – Reached out to company for student survey results so we can go over with school staff. 90% of students took the survey.

Glen Reynolds – New format for LEOP was emailed out this week. I will be working on that for some time.

#### **V Approval of Minutes:**

Dan Thayer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting, Todd Rolland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed.

## **VI      Adjournment**

Motion made by Dan Thayer to adjourn, Todd Rolland seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 A.M.

**Minutes not official until approval at next meeting**